



St. Luke Parish School Board of Specified Jurisdiction

Commencing with the 2008/09 school year, St. Luke Parish School transitioned from an advisory board to a Board of Specified Jurisdiction (BSJ). Following the closing of several Catholic schools in the Chicago Archdiocese in 2005, Francis Cardinal George issued a statement declaring, “We have to find a better way to assure the future of [our Catholic] schools.” He added, “At the center of my desires for this Archdiocese is the maintenance of a vibrant faith-based school system, where quality education is assured for the future.” All Catholic schools in the Archdiocese are to transition from advisory and consultative boards to boards of limited or specified jurisdiction. The Archdiocese recognizes that to ensure the vitality and future of Catholic schools in Cook and Lake counties, Catholic schools must call upon laity to assist in certain areas of governance. These laity, both from the Catholic school parish and the community at large, bring with them specific experience, skills and expertise, not otherwise available to the parish and school staff, at no incremental expense.

The Archdiocese has mandated that these new governance boards have limited or specified jurisdiction. Specific areas that the Archdiocese has reserved to itself and which are NOT governed by the BSJ include:

- Approval of the school’s mission statement (delegated to the Pastor)
- Appointment of members to the BSJ (delegated to the Pastor)
- Appointment of the Principal or hiring or evaluating teachers (delegated to the Pastor)
- Determination of the school’s curriculum (determined by the Principal and Pastor)
- Approval of capital improvements and borrowings
- Approval of annual budgets
- Appointment of lawyers and auditors

The BSJ therefore focuses on:

- Ministry Effectiveness (effectiveness of following the school’s mission, vision and faith-based core values)
- Institutional Advancement (marketing, communications and development)
- Financial and Physical Resource management
- BSJ Policy, Planning and BSJ member development

It is significant to note that the Archdiocese has specifically required that the BSJ include members of the parish and community at large, in addition to parents of school children. BSJ meetings are currently held on the third Tuesday of every month during the school year in Waldron Hall. Highlights of each BSJ meeting will be available on the school website and in the parish bulletin.

Following are brief descriptions of each active committee:

Development

The Development Committee works with the school and parish Development Director to support the financial well being of St. Luke School. Tuition and fees cover approximately 2/3 of each student's educational cost, with the remainder being raised through fundraising such as the Walk-a-thon and Dinner Dance & Auction. The Development Committee works to gain financial support through a variety of fundraisers involving school families, parishioners, alumni, and friends of St. Luke.

Finance

The Finance Committee's primary responsibilities include developing, executing and monitoring an appropriate financial strategy for the school. This includes developing a long-term financial strategy for the school based on tuition, fundraising and the Endowment Fund; reviewing actual results of budget to ensure that results are in line with budget; reviewing variances to determine acceptability or corrective action. The Finance Committee works with the Development Committee to set clear financial goals and review actual results.

Marketing & Enrollment Management

Through recruitment and retention efforts, the Marketing & Enrollment Committee seeks to grow the St. Luke School student population and retain current families. The Committee also promotes St. Luke School and works with the Administration to improve communications both internally and externally. Responsibilities include coordinating all aspects of school communication, improving enrollment procedures and developing and implementing retention strategies.

Ministry Effectiveness

The goal of Ministry is to strengthen and support the Catholic identity of the staff and students of St. Luke School. Responsibilities include developing programs to sustain the effectiveness of the school's mission, vision and faith-based core values.

Member Development

The primary responsibility of this committee is to identify potential board members in the school, parish and the community at large. The ideal BSJ is a combination of school parents and interested community members using their talents to strengthen and develop St. Luke School.

Physical Plant and Maintenance

The primary responsibility of this committee is to ensure that the school remains in good physical repair. The committee also focuses on space utilization and future classroom needs of St. Luke School.

If you would like to become involved at St. Luke School please consider joining one of these committees. You may call the school office at 708-366-8587 for more information.

Members of the 2010/11 Board of Specified Jurisdiction:

Mary Anne Gleason	Chairperson	3 rd year
Mike Castellan	Vice-Chairperson	2 nd year
Tom Irvin	Secretary	3 rd year
Rick Beltrame	Physical Plant	2 nd year
Paul Brennan	Finance	4 th year (extension)
Robert Coleman	Development	3 rd year
John Howard	Member Development, Finance	3 rd year
Tom Jacobs	Finance	1 st year
Ruth Jandeska	Ministry Effectiveness	1 st year
Bryan McHugh	Physical Plant	2 nd year
Frank Paris	Member Development	3 rd year
Donna Slepicka	Development	1 st year
Jim Smith		3 rd year
Jessie Wiktor	Marketing & Enrollment	1st year
Fr. Ken Fischer	Pastor	Ex-Officio
Barbara Rasinski	Principal	Ex-Officio
Sheila Price	Development Director	Resource
Glenn Wagner	Parish Business Manager	Resource

The BSJ consists of 11 to 21 members appointed by the Pastor to serve a three year term. The Pastor fills these vacancies based on recommendations and applications presented by the Member Development committee.

The qualifications for being a St. Luke BSJ Member are:

- Be willing to promote school goals of service, academic, prayer and development
- Exhibit a demonstrated competence and interest in his/her chosen field of committee involvement
- Be willing to maintain high levels of integrity and confidentiality
- Be willing to support and participate in development activities
- Have a desire and ability to work effectively on a committee
- Be able to attend monthly School Board meetings
- Be able to serve for three years

For more information on becoming a BSJ member, please contact the School Office at 708-366-8587. Please direct any questions you may have about the BSJ to Fr. Ken or Mrs. Rasinski.